8 Days to Launch!

SORCE Mission Activity –
Still on schedule! The SORCE launch remains set for January 25 from Kennedy Space Center (KSC), with the launch scheduled for 3:10 p.m. Eastern Time, 1:10 p.m. Mountain Time. The latest milestone was the fairing installation, which was completed Wednesday this week. This was the last opportunity to see or handle SORCE. Following is a partial sequence of events. It took approximately 2 days to install and finalize the fairing or clamshell around the SORCE payload.

Protective solar array covers are removed prior to starting the installation process. In the foreground in the lower right corner, you can see the other side of the clamshell.

Tentative Dates for Upcoming Events:
- 1/20/03 Launch Rehearsal (KSC)
- 1/21/03 Flight Readiness Review (KSC)
- 1/22/03 SORCE/Pegasus Transferred to Hot Pod
- 1/24/03 Launch Readiness Reviews (KSC)
- 1/25/03 SORCE Launch (KSC)

Spacexcraft battery trickle charge cable and nitrogen purge tube are attached until transport.

And one last peek before closing the fairing.

For people interested in viewing the SORCE launch, but unable to see it at KSC or LASP on January 25, there are options. NASA TV will be covering the SORCE launch beginning approximately one hour before the Pegasus rocket is dropped. Coverage should begin about 12:00 noon EST, when the L-1011 aircraft carrier takes off and begins the climb to reach the 40,000 feet elevation necessary to drop the Pegasus. For more specific information, check the NASA television schedule at http://www.spacelink.org/mission/launches/schedule.html. The live coverage will include video and audio from a chase plane that will travel along side the L-1011 until after the Pegasus drop. Once dropped, the Pegasus will be out of view worldwide.

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